

## **REMARKS**

### **Summary of the Office Action**

In the final Office Action dated August 29, 2008, claims 1-2, 5-9, 12, 14-15, 18-22, and 24-27 are rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, and claims 1-2, 5-9, 12, 14-15, 18-22, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

### **Summary of the Amendment**

In the current claim amendments, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 15, 18-19, 24, and 26 are canceled and claims 12, 14, and 20-22 are amended. Claims 12, 14, 20-22, 25, and 27 are therefore pending, with claims 12 and 20 being the pending base claims.

The cancellation of claims 1, 2, 5-9, 15, 18-19, 24, and 26 is made without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to further prosecute the subject matter of the various canceled claims, for example, by means of a continuing application.

### **Regarding the Various Rejections of Now Canceled Claims**

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, 15, 18-19, 24, and 26 are canceled herein. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of these claims 1, 2, 5-9, 15, 18-19, 24, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now moot.

### **Regarding the Rejections of Pending Claims under First Paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112**

Claims 12, 14, 20-22, 25, and 27 stand rejected under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. In particular, the Office Action expresses concern regarding the phrase “secret information” previously recited in various claims. Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claims 12 and 20 have now been amended and no longer recite the phrase “secret information”. Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the claims amendments provided above in the Listing of Claims, the rejections of claims 12, 14, 20-22, 25, and 27 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 are now moot. The Examiner’s reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully solicited.

**Regarding the Rejections of Pending Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 12, 14, 20-22, 25, and 27 stand rejected under the 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses.

In the interest of expediently prosecuting the application, Applicant has now amended claims 12, 14, and 20-22 to define the claimed invention with even greater particularity. The amendments of claims 12, 14, and 20-22 is made without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicant respectfully reserves the right to further prosecute the subject matter of the prior forms of claims 12, 14, and 20-22, for example, by means of a continuing application. The amendments to claims 12, 14, and 20-22 are supported, for example, by the description of the second embodiment of the present invention provided in the specification. For example, see paragraphs [0089] through [0097] of the Specification and Figures 4 and 5A-B of the Drawings. No new matter has been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are patentable over the references cited in the Office Action. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections of claims 12, 14, 20-22, 25, and 27 under the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

### **CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims at her earliest convenience.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Please charge the fee for two month's extension-of-time, the fee for the Request for Continued Examination, and any other required fee(s) to Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, she may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Timothy J. Lane/

Date

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